



CARDD
MEPA ROUTING MEMO

To: Mark Bostrom
Through: Demi Blythe
From: Lindsay Volpe

Re: No MEPA Needed – Categorical Exclusion Notice
Project Sponsor: Sweet Grass County Conservation District
Name of Project: Post-Kellogg Ditch Headworks Improvement Project
Agreement No: RRG-22-

Memo:

DNRC can issue a Final No MEPA Needed - Categorical Exclusion for the Sweet Grass County Conservation District (attached). We reviewed the DNRC CATEX checklist and found the project to be eligible under the ARM 36.17.614 Categorical Exclusion Rule

SIGNATURE REQUIRED on BOTH the NO MEPA and CATEX Checklist

___/s/DEB_ MEPA/NEPA Coordinator Review

___^{DS}
[Signature]___

Bureau Chief Review

Division Administrator Signature

_____ Post for _30_ Days on DNRC's Environmental Docs page.

_____ File

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION**

GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR

1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANADIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074
FAX: (406) 444-2684PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601**DECISION MEMO
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**

Post-Kellogg Ditch Headworks Improvement Project
November 1, 2021
Sweet Grass County Conservation District
44°46'20.86"N -109°58'33.6"W
Sweet Grass

PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose and need include:

1. Description of the proposed action:
 - a. Post-Kellogg Ditch Company working with the Sweet Grass County Conservation District.
 - b. Remove existing headgates
 - c. Construct new headgate
 - d. Construct new bypass structure
 - e. The project will be in Section 3 T1S R14E, the location of the main irrigation diversion structure on the Post-Kellogg Ditch. The attached map illustrates the location of the diversion headgate.
 - f. Re-aligning the head gate and installing a new concrete headgate will allow for decreased instream sediment and improved management of the diversion structure.
 - g. The Sweet Grass County Conservation District and the Post-Kellogg Ditch company will process with the project October 2021 and anticipates completion by January 2022.
 - h. The proposed upgrades to the main diversion structure will allow the Post-Kellogg Ditch Company to sustain farming along the ditch. The ability to control water from this diversion will supply water to 1,400 acres of irrigated land.

Explanation of the decision(s) that must be made regarding the proposed action (i.e. approve grant or loan and provide funding):

DNRC will approve the grant to provide funding for the Post-Kellogg Ditch Headworks Improvement Project.

DNRC is not required to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for actions that qualify for a CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (ARM 36.17.614) or justified by a PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW; or are ACTIONS OF A SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523(5)); or are EMERGENCIES (ARM 36.2.539). These actions are subject to review for EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES that would require an EA or an EIS.

ACTIONS OF SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523)

- ☐ Administrative actions: routine, clerical, or similar functions of a department, including but not limited to administrative procurement, contracts for consulting services, and personnel actions.
- ☐ Minor repairs, operations, or maintenance of existing equipment or facilities.

☐ Investigation and enforcement: data collection, inspection of facilities or enforcement of environmental standards.

☐ Ministerial actions: actions in which the agency exercises no discretion, but rather acts upon a given state of facts in a prescribed manner.

☐ Actions that are primarily social or economic in nature and that do not otherwise affect the human environment.

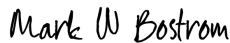
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION/PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW

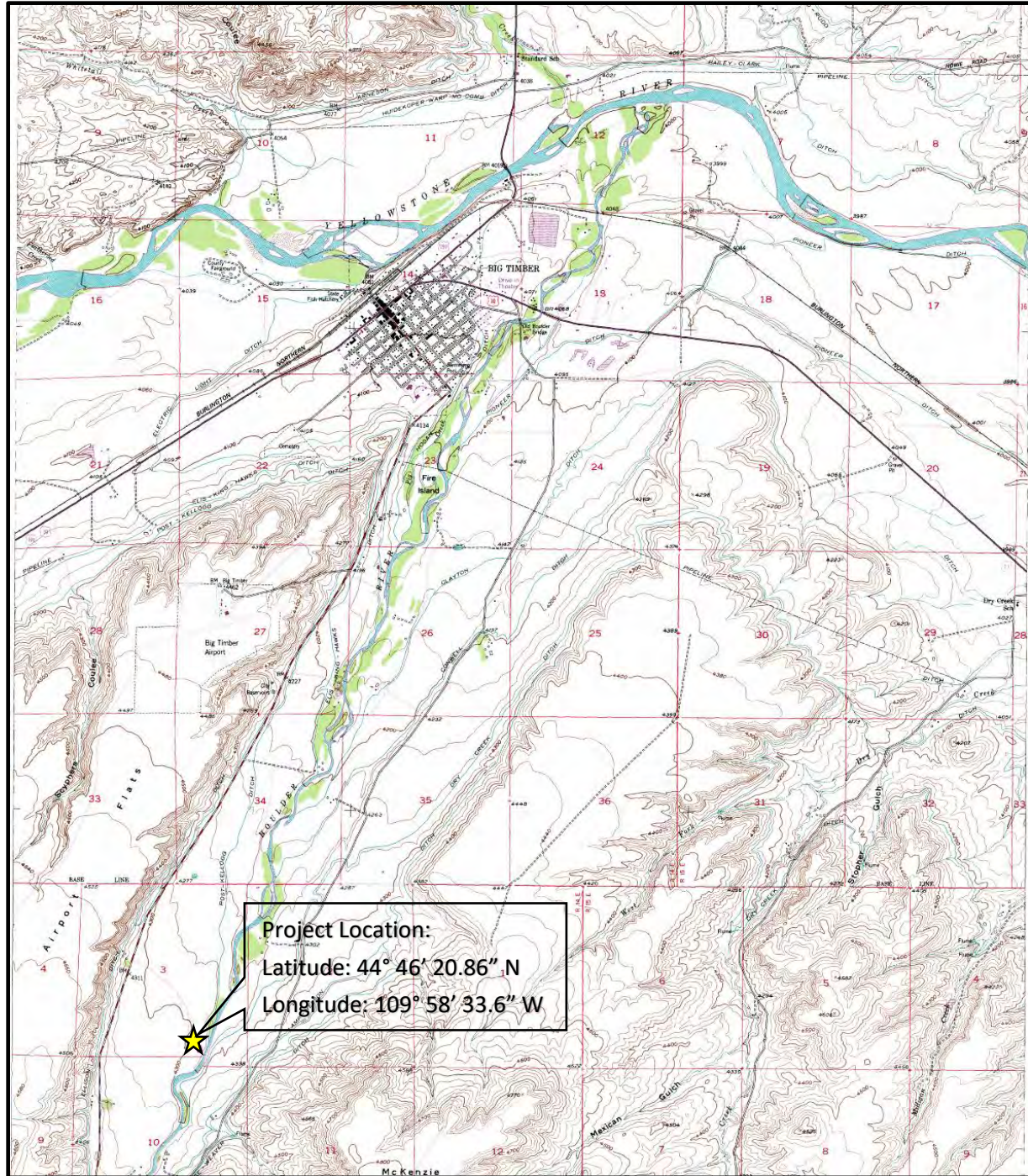
☒ Categorical Exclusion (CE) refers to a type of action which does not individually, collectively, or cumulatively require an EA or EIS, as determined by rulemaking or programmatic review adopted by the agency, unless extraordinary circumstances, as defined by rulemaking or programmatic review, occur. This project qualifies under ARM 36.17.614 CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.

☐ Programmatic review means an analysis (EIS or EA) of the impacts on the quality of the human environment of related actions, programs, or policies. DNRC – CARDD does not have any programmatic reviews completed at the time of this template.

The project listed above meets the definition of Actions of a Special Nature, Categorical Exclusion or Programmatic Review including specified conditions and Extraordinary Circumstances. Included below is a supplemental checklist verifying the use of the Categorical Exclusion.

Prepared By:	Name: LINDSAY VOLPE	Date: 10/18/2021
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Approved By:	Name: Mark Bostrom
	Title: Administrator
Signature: 	Date: 10/22/2021 3:28:14 PM MDT



DNRC CARDD DOCUMENTATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION CHECKLIST

Project Name: Sweet Grass County Conservation District

Brief Description: Post-Kellogg Ditch Headworks Improvement Project

Agreement Number: RRG-22-1803

Date: 10/13/2021

Preparer: L. Volpe

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation action under 36.17.614, is excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) if the application for department review is for any of the following projects:

(a) Projects relating to existing infrastructure systems such as sewer and septic systems, drinking water supply systems, and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems, dams, culverts, headgates, canal lining, siphons, pipelines, pump sites, lift stations, irrigation infrastructure, that involve:

[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", an EA or EIS must be completed. If any answer is yes, skip to (b).]

1. Yes - Minor upgrading; or
2. Yes - Minor expansion of system capacity; or
3. Yes - Rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system components; or
4. Yes - Construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities; or
5. No - Projects in unsewered communities involving the replacement of existing on- site systems, provided that the new on-site systems do not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharges or in loadings of pollutants from existing sources, and do not relocate existing discharges; or
6. No - Use of sampling and monitoring wells to test for the presence of contaminants such as, but not limited to, metals and petroleum; or
7. No - Activities that do not involve or lead directly to construction, such as planning studies, scientific research and analysis, surveys, or engineering.

(b) A categorical exclusion may NOT be granted for a department action if:

[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", skip to (c). If any answer is yes, an EA or EIS must be completed.]

1. No - The action would authorize facilities that will provide a new discharge or relocate an existing discharge to ground or surface waters;
2. No - The action would result in an increase above permit levels established for the facility under the Montana pollutant discharge elimination system or Montana ground water pollution control system for either volume of discharge or loading rate of pollutants to receiving waters;
3. No - The action would authorize facilities that will provide capacity to serve a population at least 30% greater than the existing population;
4. No - The action is not supported by the state, or other regional growth plan or strategy;
5. No - The action directly or indirectly involves or relates to upgrading or extending infrastructure systems primarily for the purposes of future development;
6. No - The department has received information indicating that public controversy exists over the project's potential effects on the quality of the human environment;
7. No - The department determines that the proposed project that is the subject of the state action shows some potential for causing a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, based on ARM 36.2.524, or might possibly affect:
 - (i) sensitive environmental or cultural resource areas; or
 - (ii) endangered or threatened species and their critical habitats.

(c) If the proposed project meets the conditions above in determining use of a CATEX, the reviewer will then complete items below as follows:

[Once all steps are complete, reviewer shall sign and date at bottom. If revocation becomes necessary, reviewer shall initiate an EA or EIS as appropriate.]

1. Yes - Project meets the above Categorical Exclusion criteria.
2. Yes - DNRC determination of Categorical Exclusion.
3. NA - DNRC distributes the Notice of Determination.
4. No - Notice of Publication and cover letter (containing revocation language below) is delivered to recipient.
5. NA - Notice of Publication published in local newspaper by recipient and evidence of publication provided to reviewer.

(d) The department may revoke a categorical exclusion if:

[Only complete the steps below if revocation of a previously implemented CATEX becomes necessary.]

1. Yes - The project is not initiated within the time period specified in the facility plan, or a new or modified application is submitted;
2. Yes - The proposed action no longer meets the requirements for a categorical exclusion because of changes in the proposed action;
3. Yes - New evidence demonstrates that serious local or environmental issues exist; or
4. Yes - State, local, tribal, or federal laws may be violated.

Lindsay Volpe

DNRC CARD Division STATE PREPARER

Mark Bostrom

DNRC CARD Division STATE REVIEWER

10/18/2021

COMPLETION DATE